

**VLER Support of VBA Transformation**

**Section I: Background**

VLER is tasked to develop and implement the information sharing policies, processes and technology required to enable the proactive delivery of the full continuum of clinical and non-clinical services to Veterans. A major part of this mission, VLER Capability Area 2 (VCA-2) is the collection of information required to support disability claims management.

VLER efforts directly supporting the VBA include:

- 1) **Interagency Care Coordination Committee (IC3)**: As co-chair of the **IC3 ITWG/ISIC** and an active member of the IC3 ESC, VLER is driving efforts to meet the cross-Departmental information sharing needs of case/care management/coordination personnel on providing integrated care to Service members and Veterans. Integrated care seeks to close the traditional division between health and social care. Through the interagency comprehensive plan (CP), authoritative data will be made available by leveraging the VLER Data Access Services (DAS) to connect to the multiple clinical and non-clinical systems used to support the broad scope of work of case/care management/coordination through the creation of a single repository for this information. Specific VLER Tasks include:
  - a) Synchronizing/de-conflicting and documenting interagency requirements for interagency care coordination information management and information sharing (IM/IS)
  - b) Development of the IC3 IM/IS Capability Architecture
  - c) Negotiation and Development of Joint/Interagency IC3 IM/IS IT Acquisition Strategy and IGCE
  - d) Oversight of execution and implementation of data sharing between systems
    - i) Department of Defense (DoD) Army Wounded Care and Transition System and VA FCMT
    - ii) Department of Defense (DoD) RCPSS and VA FCMT
    - iii) VA CMTRA and VA FCMT
  - e) Oversight of execution and implementation of the ICPv1 and ICPv2 in FCMT
  - f) Oversight of execution and implementation of the consolidation of VA CC/CM systems
    - i) Federal Recovery Coordination Program (FRCP) from the Veterans Tracking Application (VTA) to Federal Case Management Tool (FCMT)
    - ii) VA VREs from the Veterans Tracking Application (VTA) to Federal Case Management Tool (FCMT)
    - iii) VA CMTRA Users to Federal Case Management Tool (FCMT)
- 2) **Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)**: VLER is responsible for oversight, funding and execution of all VA IDES IT and IM/IS efforts. Specific VLER Tasks include:
  - a) Synchronizing/de-conflicting and documenting interagency requirements IDES information management and information sharing (IM/IS)
  - b) Development of the IDES IM/IS Capability Architecture
  - c) Negotiation and Development of Joint/Interagency IDES IM/IS IT Acquisition Strategy and IGCE
  - d) Oversight of execution and implementation of data sharing between systems
    - i) Department of Defense eCFT/MEDCHARTS with VA VBMS and CAPRI
    - ii) DEERS/DPRIS and VADIR/VTA/FCMT
  - e) Oversight of execution and implementation of the ICPv1 and ICPv2 in FCMT
  - f) Oversight of execution and implementation of the consolidation of VA CC/CM systems
  - g) Lead IDES requirement development and documentation efforts
  - h) Work with various stakeholders to compel them to submit all IDES requirements to the BEC ISIT for validation and prioritization
  - i) Negotiate cost sharing agreements with DoD

## INFO PAPER

VAIQ#: N/A  
(15 February 2013)

- 3) VASRD Data Automation: VLER is tasked to enable the collection and use of medical information needed to evaluate disability compensation and pension claims from Veterans (VCA-2). To accomplish this project VA will implement:
  - a) IRS “eFile” like capability for VA Contract Examiner Systems
  - b) Enhancements to CAPRI to improve capture of VHA Compensation and Pension (C&P) exam data
  - c) IRS “eFile” like capability for use by third party providers
  - d) Creation of DBQ Web Forms for use by third party Clinicians
  - e) DBQ Web Forms consists of three IT projects: DBQ Web Forms Tool Project (“Harris Solution”), VLER DAS, and HDR Project.
- 4) Vow to Hire Heroes Act (VOW)/ Veterans Employment Initiative (VEI): The Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 provides seamless transition for Service members, expands education and training opportunities for Veterans and provides tax credits for employers who hire Veterans with service-connected disabilities. VLER has Implemented Phase I, which initiates integration of IT services providing employment and transition benefits into the eBenefits portal. This was a recommendation in a report to the White House developed by the Veterans Employment Initiative Task Force Information Technology (IT) Working Group, which ED VLER co-chairs. As co-chair of the VOW/VEI ITWG and an active member of the VOW/VEI ESC, VLER is driving efforts to meet the cross-Departmental information sharing needs for implementation of VOW/VEI. Specific VLER Tasks include:
  - a) Synchronizing/de-conflicting and documenting interagency and VA requirements for VOW/VEI information management and information sharing (IM/IS)
  - b) Development of the VOW/VEI IM/IS Capability Architecture
  - c) Negotiation and Development of Joint/Interagency Transition Portal and IM/IS IT Acquisition Strategies, OMB Budget Submissions/Defense and IGCEs
  - d) Oversight of execution and implementation of data sharing between systems
  - e) Oversight of execution and implementation of required IT systems
  - f) Working within the VA and with partners to compel consolidation of portals under the VA eBenefits.gov brand

**Section II: Project Status**

**1. Disability Benefits Questionnaires Automation Solution (DBQ AS):**

**DBQ Forms Tool Project and Health Data Repository (HDR)**

• **Recent accomplishments or issues/risks:**

- XML Data Standards: No activities
- Web Services: No activities
- Web Forms:
  - DBQ Forms 1-20 delivered in Nov 2012 with numerous usability issues
    - UAT for First 20 Forms Identified 216 Issues: 71 defects, 78 Change requests, 67 Others (e.g., Training, Duplicates)
  - Retesting second version of DBQ Forms 1-20
    - 56 defects reported by vendor as fixed: 56 tested by VLER IT PMO, awaiting retest by users
  - 15 defects from UAT awaiting further clarification
    - Working 11 defects with contractor
    - 4 reported defects require business policy decision
  - Provided DBQ forms 61-82 requirements to contractor
- HDR Development: No activities
- DBQ Integrated Project Team (IPT): No activities

• **Planned events for the upcoming weeks:**

- XML Data Standards: Review of XML Schemas for Release 2 (forms 21-40) from contractor
- Web Services:
  - Coordinate schedule for testing of DBQ AS Release 3 (forms 41-60) with VLER DAS Release 4.1
- Web Forms:
  - Complete plan for retesting of defects from Release 1 (forms 1-20) and Release 2 (21-40)
  - Receive and retest fixes for open defects from Release 2 (forms 21-40)
  - Complete plan for user acceptance testing for Release 3 (forms 41-60)
  - Receive fixes for open defects from Release 1 (forms 1-20)
  - Start user acceptance testing for Release 3 (forms 41-60)
  - Start user retesting of defects fixed for Release 1 (forms 1-20) and Release 2 (21-40)
- HDR Development: No activities
- DBQ Integrated Project Team (IPT): Hold biweekly meetings.

• **Projected capability delivery dates within 180 days:**

- XML Data Standards:
  - Release 3 (DBQ Forms 41-60) 19 March 2013
  - Release 4 (DBQ Forms 61-82) 10 May 2013
- Web Forms:
  - Release 3 (DBQ Forms 41-60) 19 March 2013
  - Release 4 (DBQ Forms 61-82) 10 May 2013

**VLER DAS**

• **Recent accomplishments or issues/risks: DAS v4.0: CDS Read Wrapper**

- Successfully installed to production on January 29, 2013
- National Release addendum approved
- DAS v4.1.0: DBQ Performance and Capability Improvements

## INFO PAPER

VAIQ#: N/A  
(15 February 2013)

- SD&E Cutover meeting completed
- DAS v4.1.1: Life Event Notification Service (LENS)
  - Completed Integration testing
- DAS v4.2.0: CDS RW (CAPRI I/F) & ACA-Retrieve Health Coverage for CMS
  - Customer acceptance received
- DAS v4.2.1: CDS Read Wrapper (Retrieve Exam Result by Status and Date Range)
  - Customer acceptance received
- DAS v4.2.2: Redesign of the SOAP Services & MVI get Corresponding Ids service for Care Coordinator retrievals.
- DAS v4.3: Basic Auditing Capability Service
- **Planned events for the upcoming weeks:**
  - DAS v4.1.0:
    - National Release addendum submitted for approval
    - Release to Production targeted for February 2013
  - DAS v4.1.1:
    - Completion of System Testing
  - DAS v4.2.0:
    - Integration testing pending completion of System Testing DAS v4.1.1
  - Release to Production targeted for April 2013
    - Customer Acceptance targeted for February 2013
  - DAS v4.2.2:
    - Customer Acceptance targeted for March 2013
    - Release to Production targeted for April 2013
  - DAS v4.3:
    - Customer Acceptance targeted for March 2013
- **Projected capability delivery dates within 180 days:**
  - DAS v4.0:
    - Released to Production January 2013
  - DAS v4.1.0:
    - Release to Production targeted for February 2013
  - DAS v4.1.1:
    - Release to Production targeted for March 2013
  - DAS v4.2.0:
    - Release to Production targeted for April 2013
  - DAS v4.2.1:
    - Release to Production targeted for April 2013
  - DAS v4.2.2:
    - Release to Production targeted for April 2013
  - DAS v4.3:
    - Release to Production targeted for May 2013

## 2. Vow to Hire Heroes Act (VOW)/ Veterans Employment Initiative (VEI):

- **Recent accomplishments or issues/risks:** N/A
- **Planned events for the upcoming weeks:** N/A
- **Projected capability delivery dates within 180 days:** N/A

**3. Interagency Care Coordination Committee (IC3):**

**Federal Case Management Tool (FCMT)**

- **Recent accomplishments or issues/risks:**
  - Completed prototyping for Inc 4, FCMT 2.0 (Migration of VHA Liaisons/VBA Casualty and Chapter 63)
  - Completed Initial Product Build for FCMT 1.1.1 (508 remediation Maintenance Release)
  - Completed Transition of FCMT Tier I Help Desk capabilities to the National Service Desk (NSD)
- **Planned events for the upcoming weeks:**
  - Continue supporting User Story Review Sessions and planning efforts for Inc 5, FCMT 2.1 (Migration of VBA Liaisons)
  - Complete SQA testing for FCMT 1.1.1
  - Complete testing with 508 office for FCMT 1.1.1
  - Continue phased transition of FCMT Tier II Help Desk capabilities to Benefits Product Service (BPS)
  - Continue Tier III Support of FRCP users
- **Projected capability delivery dates within 180 days:**
  - Delivery of FCMT 1.1.1 to production in Q3FY13
  - Delivery of FCMT 2.0 to production in Q4FY13

**4. Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) –**

**Electronic Case File Transfer (eCFT):**

- **Recent accomplishments or issues/risks:**
  - Air Force will continue to use eCFT at pilot sites for new IDES cases. Awaiting VBMS Technical SMEs to be identified (first request for VBMS Technical SMEs submitted on 1/24/2013)
- **Planned events for the upcoming weeks:**
  - Discussion between eCFT technical SMEs and VBMS technical SMEs
- **Projected capability delivery dates within 180 days:**
  - Awaiting technical discussion to see if auto-population of VBMS by eCFT can occur.

**Veterans Tracking Application (VTA)**

- **Recent accomplishments or issues/risks:**
  - Release VTA v2.1.1 (Maintenance Release adding additional fields to the weekly IDES extract)
  - Completed the transition of the VTA Help Desk to the National Service Desk
- **Planned events for the upcoming weeks:**
  - Product Build for VTA v2.1.2 (508 remediation Maintenance Release phase 1)
  - Support AITC in Windows 2008 Service Upgrade
  - Perform regression testing for Windows 2008 Service Upgrade
  - Continue Tier III Support of VTA users
- **Projected capability delivery dates within 180 days:**
  - VTA v2.1.2 (508 remediation Maintenance Release phase 1) in Q3FY13
  - VTA v2.1.3 (508 remediation Maintenance Release phase 1) in Q3FY13

**Section III: Key Issues and Risks****DBQ User Acceptance Testing**

<b>Status Type</b>	<b>Release 1 (DBQs 1-20)</b>	<b>Release 2 (DBQs 21-40)</b>
Open	15	35
Closed	67	42
Pending Retesting	56	0
Change Requests	78	8
<b>Total Observations</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>85</b>

**Update on Release 1 (DBQs 1-20)**

1. The 15 open defects are comprised of 2 pending delivery of fixes and 13 related to design decisions.
  - a. 4 are pending discussion with the Business concerning impact to business processes and policy on “yes/no” questions
  - b. 9 are pending discussion with the contractor on possible solutions to design of text boxes and how text is displayed on the screen.
2. All 56 defects pending retesting have been tested by the IT PMO and are pending retesting with users.
3. The 78 change requests are comprised mainly of observations related to changes to the forms, changes to requirements, and clarification of business processes.

**Action Required:** None, information only

Joshua Lawton-Belous, Senior Program Analyst, VLER/005C/202-604-5808

APPROVED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Paiva  
Executive Director  
Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record